In Parenthesis

One Day Slipped By

"SIX day's notice, cook? I suppose you mean a week's notice?"

"No, m'm. I forgot to tell you yesterday."

* * *

Impossible

EMPLOYER: "James, you've been drinking my brandy!"

Butler: "I have not, sir! I couldn't get the cork out."

* * *

Marvellous

PAUL—When I read about the marvels of electricity it makes me stop and think.

Bill—Imagine that! Isn't it wonderful what electricity can do!

* * *

Bright

SADDLER (to customer who has asked for a single spur).—"What use is one spur?"

Customer.—Well, if I can get one side of the horse to go the other one will follow.

* * *

Wrong Again

"GET my kit ready quick," shouted the doctor. "Some fellow has phoned that he can't live without me."

"Oh, that call is for me," said his daughter, as she seized the phone and glued her ear to it.

* * *

First Case

"And who didn't hang up his clothes nicely before he got into bed?" asked Oliver's mother, very sweetly, when she saw the little ape's things scattered all over the floor.

And the little ape's muffled voice replied—"Adam."

* * *

Heard That One

YOUNG clergyman (to Bishop): "May it please your lordship, I want permission to get married."

"And a very good idea, too, my man. Who's the girl; can I approve?"

"Well, she's only a fishmonger's daughter, but—"

"That'll do. I've heard that one."

* * *

Important

A TEMPERANCE lecturer ended his lengthy speech with:

"Some people advocate total abstinence, whilst others suggest moderation. But I ask you, my friends, what is the all-important Drink question?"

From the back of the hall came the reply: "What'll you have?"

* * *

Unnecessary

IT was a very small station in the Highlands, and to the solitary railway official in view the English woman visitor was calling: "Portah, portah, come here at once!"

"What d'ye want?" that worthy asked.

"I've lost my luggage," she called.

"Then," came the retort, "for what wad ye be wanting a porter?"

* * *

Routine

PAT, the village postman, called every morning at the local pub, whether there was a letter for O'Leary, the proprietor, or not. The postmaster decided to watch him one morning when he knew there was no letter for O'Leary. He did so, and saw Pat go in as usual.

That evening the postmaster said: "Pat, you went into O'Leary's this morning, and you had no letter for him. How is that?"

"Yes, sir," replied Pat; "shure, I went in to tell him there was no letter to-day."

* * *

Sally The Cat

"WHAT are you going to do about your daughter Screwy?"

"I have no idea."

"Then it's time you had an idea. I have found homes for all the others. I can't do everything."

"Can't you find another fishmonger who wants a cat? Or a butcher?"

"Do you think I have nothing else to do but go round asking fishmongers and butchers if they want cats?"

"You have the whole week-end to yourself."

"What is wrong with Screwy that nobody wants her?"

"People think she looks rather like a clown with one half of her face black and the other half ginger. Then she has one black leg and one tortoiseshell."

"I should have thought that a girl with one black leg and one tortoiseshell would have been unusual enough to be attractive."

She's very attractive and affectionate, but rather scatter-brained."

"Do you mean she's out of her mind?"

"Not exactly. But she's rather wild and eccentric. She runs madly about in all directions and falls into saucers of milk and eats her dinner sitting in the middle of the plate."

"Somebody's got to have her. We can't have a mad kitten in the house. Besides, she may grow up and have a lot more mad kittens."

"I beg your pardon?"

"And by next August I expect you'll be having another lot of mad kittens yourself."

"I don't think there is any occasion to bring that up."

N. Gubbins in the "Sunday Chronicle."

Sixty Years Ago

FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS," OF JULY 3, 1877

Chinese immigration has recently been invited to Sooloo, but according to a correspondent at that place, it must be limited to the respectable classes or it will not be acceptable. The Spaniards would have no objection to receive a few thousand industrious Chinese of unblemished character and possessed of a little capital, but they do not desire to have the country flooded with roughs and robbers such as flock "in thousands in other parts of the world." The imposition of a poll-tax is advocated, as well as a security for or guarantee of respectability and good character. Some stringent measures should, it is thought, be adopted to prevent a deluge of Celestial rascality, which might plot and combine with the natives in the adjacent isles to upset order and good government. The restrictions contemplated may not, it is true, keep out the Chinese, if they think there is anything to be got by going to Sooloo, having regard to the fact that all the severities and barbarities practised against them in the Philippines have failed to drive them out of those islands; but it must be confessed that the welcome offered them in Sooloo looks like a very cool one indeed. It is evident that in Spanish opinion the mass of the Chinese are people to be legislated against. It is perfectly true that of the Cantonese many require to be well looked after but if the Government of the Philippines is anxious to promote the settlement and colonization of Sooloo by their aid, it must not be too severe and harsh in its treatment of them, or it may fail to attract the desired labour supply.

By SAPAJOU

PROSPECTS FOR THE S.V.C.

COLONY'S FRANCHISE PROBLEM

Various Groups Desire Voice in Government: Remarkable Ship Construction Era

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hongkong, June 24.

Periodically, the question of liberalizing the Colony's constitution, so as to give the ordinary resident a voice in its government, arises locally. It has once again come into some prominence following the reprinting here of an outspoken interview which Mr. Roland Braddell, Singapore barrister, gave to a Straits newspaper, in which he made a reasoned plea for greater civic privileges for the "Little Man"—a plea which has found a ready re-echo in local Press comment. Unlike many other Crown Colonies, both Singapore and Hongkong have Legislative Councils in which the official element predominates and appointment to which, so far as the unofficial members are concerned, is other than by direct election.

In the case of Hongkong, excluding the Governor, who is chairman, there are nine official and eight unofficial members. Of the latter, six are nominated by the Governor and the remaining two chosen by the General Chamber of Commerce and the Justices of the Peace respectively. This, incidentally, is in striking contrast to the Constitution of British Guiana, from which Colony Sir Geoffry Northcote, Hongkong's Governor-elect will come here. There, the Council consists of ten officials and nineteen unofficials, of the latter of whom fourteen are popularly elected and the remainder nominated by the Governor.

Disparity in Franchise Privileges

There are doubtless good and sufficient reasons to account for the lack of uniformity in the constitutions of the various Crown Colonies, but, as one of the local journals has pointed out, the disparity in franchise privileges cannot be wholly due to the state of political or educational advancement of the inhabitants, since some of the more culturally backward Colonies have more liberal constitutions than Hongkong enjoys. Possibly the near presence of large foreign political units is a factor in the situation. Be that as it may, there does exist in Hongkong a strong under-current of opinion, seldom made vocal, which favours reform.

The only direct vote which residents here enjoy is in respect of two seats on the Urban Council, the new name given to the old Sanitary Board. This body, however, is merely advisory, and as the elected seats are held for a period of three years, the opportunity of exercising this very limited franchise seldom occurs. More often than not, vacancies are filled without the necessity of election, due to the absence of more than one candidate. This circumstance has been cited as demonstrating a lack of civic spirit on the part of the public, but when account is taken of the relative unimportance of the Council in the scheme of local government, the criticism seems scarcely justified. If apathy does exist, the more likely explanation is the lack of opportunity offered to the average resident in the matter of making his views and opinions felt.

Bristling with Difficulties

It is conceded that the problem of devising a satisfactory electoral system bristles with difficulties, more particularly in the direction of avoiding any swamping of the poll by specific interests or communities. There is the further fact, of which account must be taken, that the masses of the Chinese populace are not fitted for the vote. On the Legislative Council, as at present constituted, three of the eight unofficials are Chinese, all appointed by the Governor. It might be possible, so far as Chinese representation is concerned, to give the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Justices of the Peace, or some other representative Chinese body, the privilege of nominating their own members, or, at least in regard to one of the members, some system of property or residential qualification might be devised.

The non-Chinese community might be catered for by the electorate being drawn, as in the case of the Urban Council contests, from the Jury List, plus those normally liable for but exempt from jury service, which is fairly representative of the English-speaking communities of various races—or a property or residential qualification might also apply for this section of the population as well.

There was a time, some years ago, when, largely due to the activities of the now defunct Constitutional Reform Association, which had quite a large and influential membership, an unofficial majority on the Legislative Council was in favour. Later came a realization that, under such a system, special interests might control the government. Such feeling as now exists on the subject inclines in the direction of retaining official predominance, but making due provision for direct election of unofficials, excepting, possibly, those chosen by the Chamber of Commerce and the Justices of Peace. The demand is modest in character, and there seems no adequate reason why it should not be granted, the more so when it is borne in mind that Europeans are making their homes here to a far greater extent to-day than ever before in the history of the Colony.

"Disgrace to Land of Birth"

Resentment has been expressed, in the Press, and freely in conversation, at some remarks, made at a missionary meeting in England, by the Rev. E. H. C. Tribbeck, until recently minister of the English Methodist Church in Hongkong, which are considered to have given a wholly unwarranted and distorted impression to people at Home of the life led by young Englishmen in this Colony. Conceding that the British civilian population, "mostly Government servants," are a credit to Britain, Mr. Tribbeck went on to say: "But there are many Englishmen who are a disgrace to the land of their birth and the enemies of all missionary work. In the name of God," he declaimed, "why do we allow such drunken, foul-living creatures to go abroad and represent us to the peoples of the world"—a remark greeted by applause. One local journal, in commenting on the subject, does not deny that there are a few black sheep in the Colony, but adds that they are on no sense typical of the place—they are to be found everywhere. "By and large," remarks the editor, "we should say that the young manhood of Hongkong is to-day far more serious-thinking and more morally clean than at any time in its history."

Another newspaper regrets that Mr. Tribbeck, in adopting the role of crusader, was not sufficiently discriminative, and that he did not speak as strongly while he was in Hongkong, when his strictures would perhaps have been more effective and could have been challenged with better prospect of understanding. But the journal takes occasion to point out that prestige can only be maintained by conduct, adding "Drunkenness and bad language are not the only sins: there are also corruption and brutality."

Ship-Building Boom

Hongkong shipyards are at the moment enjoying a boom such as they have not experienced for very many years. In all, there are fourteen ocean-going vessels under construction, and there are now only nine nations which can show higher figures.

The extent of the boom is revealed in statistics issued by the local office of Lloyds Register of Shipping, which disclose that during the second quarter of this year vessels totalling 40,000 tons have either been completed or are under construction. Indeed, if we exclude the United Kingdom, tonnage now being built locally exceeds that for the whole British Empire. Only Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Holland, Japan, Sweden and the United States can show higher figures than Hongkong.

Of the vessels being built, the biggest are two liners, each of about 10,000 tons, for the Blue Funnel Line, now under construction at the Taikoo Dockyard & Engineering Co.'s yards. These are sister ships of the vessels now being built in England for the same company, designed to be the most powerful freighters in the world. The keels of three large Indo-China Steam Navigation Company steamships are now being laid at the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co.'s yards at Kowloon. They will be named, Liwo, Taisang and Wingsang. The two last-named will be modern coastal liners of 3,500 tons gross, while the Liwo will be a river vessel of 889 tons.

Other vessels are being built to satisfy orders in Australia, India and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, business generally shows a marked improvement, the latest statistics showing that the total visible trade of the Colony increased in terms of local currency by over 30 per cent. in May, compared with the same month last year, and by over 27 per cent. in terms of sterling.

Compared with the corresponding period of last year, in the first five months of the year imports increased by over 34 per cent. in terms of local currency and by over 29 per cent. in sterling; while exports improved by over 34 per cent. in local currency and over 29 per cent. in sterling.

Comfortable Retiring Allowance

A question which is not without its interest to Shanghai has cropped up in the correspondence columns of a local journal—namely, how much money would a married couple need to be able to retire, on a reasonable standard of comfort, in the Old Country.

The matter arose from a letter written by "Old Resident," who sought information on the point whether a capital of £5,000 or £6,000 would be sufficient. He envisaged a quiet life in the provinces, without luxury, and without even a small car, while as to servants he would not expect more than a woman to help with the rough work, or, maybe, a daily maid.

The enquiry has drawn a goodly number of replies, including quite a number obviously from insurance agents, who espied an opportunity of doing a little annuity business.

The only concrete response was from a correspondent who expressed the view that a couple could live very quietly in the South of England on £2 10s. a week, but this would mean careful pruning of expenses, specially to anyone who has lived for any considerable period in the Far East. The correspondent adds that retirement on a clear £5 10s. a week would provide for occasional luxuries, but in such a case life would still have to be lived fairly quietly.

In these matters, of course, locality would be a big factor, to say nothing of a clear-cut definition of the standard of living expected.

TRIED TO ESCAPE BY BARRED WINDOW

The adventures of a 16-year-old girl "Houdini" were related, recently at Croydon Juvenile Court.

She was charged on remand with breaking her recognizances to be of good behaviour by stealing a bicycle. There was a further charge of stealing another, which she was stated to have taken after absconding from the home she was sent to a week before.

The superintendent said: "She got over an 8-ft. wall which has barbed wire and broken glass on it.

"After she had been brought back by the police she was locked in a room where the windows were guarded with iron bars and wire netting. She found means of unscrewing the bars and destroying the netting, but was discovered when about to break the window."

A police officer said that the girl was found at London Docks, where she had gone apparently to try to smuggle herself aboard a ship. Her idea might have been to go abroad, because she had a great aversion to having to appear again in court.

The Bench ordered the girl to an approved school.

CANTON CURRENCY REFORM

National Notes Replace Provincial

RAIL AND HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Canton, June 25.

In six short months Kwangtung provincial and Municipal Banknotes will disappear and from yesterday the Provincial Bank ceased giving out its currency. The retirement of local notes is to be left entirely to the three big banks of Nanking and Shanghai which have as their special prerogative the printing and circulating of recognized Chinese National Currency. Twice per month they will make a report on the progress that has been made in retiring this local money. From each bill a corner will be snipped, and these corners will go back to the Provincial Bank as its proof of the accuracy of the reported figures.

There is $337,849,000 in Provincial Banknotes outstanding and from January 1 they will cease to be legal tender. Merchants and others will not dare thereafter to express in any written agreement the consideration in terms of these Provincial or Municipal notes, for if they do the agreement will be looked upon by the courts as of no binding effect.

Silver is conspicuous by its absence in the big cities and towns of Kwangtung Province; scarcer than before, it remains the favourite medium with the farming class, and in many rural sections the prevailing bartering medium is about half paper and half specie. An extra spurt is on to diminish the subsidiary coinage in popular use to the vanishing point, and new restrictive measures of the Ministry of Finance have just been promulgated in Canton. Whenever a silversmith retires from business he may not let his wares fall into other hands, but must dispose of them direct to the Provincial Bank, which will melt up the vases and spoons for their silver content. Pawn shops, moreover, which have taken articles made of silver must bring them to the government depositary if not redeemed within the statutory period.

Concerning itself only with its own problem, that of the pay of the civil servants, the local Government has announced that its employees will get in national notes 80 per cent. of what they are drawing in Provincial or Municipal banknotes. Merchants generally concede that 70 and not 80 per cent. is what a worker's wage should be when national currency instead of local notes are circulated.

City Borrows $6,000,000

Borrowed from Shanghai and Canton bankers, Mayor Tsang of Canton has $6,000,000 to make overdue payments to its contractors, and to get the public works, which they had to hold in abeyance because of the Government's poverty, started again. Employees of Messrs. McDonnell & Gorman, the American engineering corporation that holds the contract for the building of the Wongsha Railway bridge, and of a Chinese concern that is developing the inner harbour of Canton, have had to hold off the landlord and the grocer month after month. Workmen have barely had enough rice to exist on. Growing unruly, the Shantung men with McDonnell & Gorman marched in a body to the house of one of the company officers in the Shameen about two weeks ago, wanting to turn the residence into a dormitory till they got their back wages. They were persuaded to vacate by the police superintendent of the British Concession, the promise made being kept that the Consul should give them a hearing next day. When the Mayor heard through the American Consul-General of the bad fix of the workmen he secured several hundred dollars to give temporary relief.

This railway bridge will link the Canton-Hankow and the Canton-Samshui Railways which eventually will join Kwangtung with Kwangsi. When the inner harbour development project gets going once more there will be built wharves and godowns, more lots are to be filled in, and a retaining wall will be built to enlarge the bund in Honam, across the Pearl River from Canton. Land was bought up from private owners for a civil aviation field in Honam, and now the field with hangars and equipment is to be finished.

Whampoa Port Progress

The major concern of the Government for the nonce is the Whampoa port. So that trains can come from Hankow right up to the quays where ocean-going liners are to discharge their cargo and passengers, a spur line of the Canton-Hankow Railway is being built outside of the city limits north of Canton.

An American bank is reported to have underwritten the whole block of Whampoa Port Development Bonds, totalling U.S.$7,000,000, and from New York a consulting engineer has come to give his experience and brains that Whampoa may become a real port.

Swatow, second largest entrepot of Kwangtung, is the terminal station of the Chaochow-Swatow Railway which, when extended, will run into Fukien Province and be tied up with a network of roads so that Swatow will have direct communication by rail with Shanghai. To bring Swatow closer to the depot of this line spans have been thrown across the Hangkong. Just completed, the bridge has a total length of about 300 feet, a width of nearly 30 feet, enabling two motorcars to pass, and leaving ample space for a footpath five feet wide.

The work had to be carried on under most difficult conditions, as the river bed is filled with quicksand, and most of the construction time was spent in sinking the piers and getting them firmly anchored. One span can be opened to allow vessels to pass. This part of the structure is raised by an ingenious lifting device.

Credit for a most excellent job is due the designer and supervising engineer, Mr. Herbert Koenig, a railway expert who has been building bridges and railroads in China for the past 20 years—also to Messrs. G. E. Huygen, who fulfilled the contract for building the structure.

CHANGCHUN POSTS RESHUFFLED

Premier as Only Minister of State in Government

Changchun, July 1.

Emperor Kangte this afternoon personally confirmed six ministers in their new posts under a new Manchoukuo administrative system that went into effect to-day. None of them is a minister of state as the Premier is the only official holding such a post under the new regulations.

The departments of Foreign Affairs, Mongolian Affairs, Education and Defence, and the Supervisory Council were abolished.

The Department of Public Safety will deal with national defence as well as internal security by controlling both the Army and the police. Public education is now under the Department of Civil Affairs. Foreign relations will be handled by a Bureau of Foreign Affairs directly under the control of the Premier, who will also direct the activities of the Hsingan Bureau, successor to the Mongolian Affairs Department.—Domei.

COST OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

In an attempt to give an idea of the crime problem confronting the United States, Mr. Edgar Hoover, chief of the G-men, Federal police, gave some startling statistics in a speech at Philadelphia. He declared that the crime army, or underworld, of to-day totalled more than 4,000,000, and that in 1936 the United States had:

One felony every 24 seconds;
13,242 murders or manslaughters;
7,881 sex crimes; 34,300 robberies;
47,534 cases of aggravated assault;
278,823 burglaries and 716,674 larcenies;
213,712 cases of motor-car theft.

This makes a total of 1,264,632 major crimes.

It is estimated that the cost of them amounted to £5,700 a minute, that is £8,208,000 a day or £2,995,920,000 a year.

HOSPITAL MERGER IN HANGCHOW

Shanghai Visitors Attend Simple Ceremony

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Hangchow, June 29.

An important event in medical circles here is the recent amalgamation of the Shanghai Orthopaedic Hospital which was founded and owned by the late Dr. W. S. New and the Kwangchi Hospital of the Church Missionary Society.

The official amalgamation took the form of a simple ceremony which was held on June 26 in the building of the Kwangchi Branch Hospital on Pine Tree Hill just outside the city which is at present being used as an orthopædic block.

Among those present were Mrs. W. S. New, Dr. D. A. Li (Medical Officer of Health, Shanghai), Dr. W. S. Fu (China Medical Association) Mr. Chow (Mayor of Hangchow), Dr. H. P. Tsu, Dr. S. B. Chang (Medical Officer of Health, Hangchow), Dr. W. L. New together with the medical superintendent and members of the staff of the Kwangchi Hospital. A telegram was received from Dr. S. M. Sze who was unable to be present.

The meeting opened with the singing of the favourite hymn of the late Dr. New and then the chairman's address after which the banner on which was inscribed the modified name of the former Shanghai Orthopædic Hospital was hung. Dr. W. L. New then formally handed to Dr. Sturton (Superintendent of the Kwangchi Hospital) the records of the Shanghai Orthopædic Hospital. Dr. Sturton replied suitably and then followed speeches which covered Dr. W. S. New's life and work, connection with the Kwangchi Hospital, high ideals, loving service given to his patients whether rich or poor, his love for children and his hope that some day there would be hospitals and trained workers for dealing with orthopædic patients throughout China.

Modern Treatment

Dr. Tseng, resident orthopædic surgeon on the staff of the Kwangchi Hospital who had worked with Dr. New and who was carrying on his work under the new arrangements, gave a brief description of the modern orthopædic treatments that she had studied in a recent visit to America and Europe. She explained the methods she was using at present and the developments she hoped to see in the facilities made available in China for early diagnosis of cases, requiring orthopædic treatment, specially children. She also expressed a hope that in the near future funds would be available for erecting a building designed for the carrying out of her treatments and more suitable than the block in use at present.

After the meeting visitors were invited to inspect the building and the patients then having treatment. The veranda beds were occupied by 20 little tots clad mostly as Mother Nature meant them to be undergoing the later stages of treatment and having adequate doses of fresh air and sunshine. They took a great interest in the proceedings, passed remarks freely about the visitors, and took great pride in showing off their handwork, drawing, weaving and basket-work. Their smiling faces, vitality and plump bodies, compared with the miserable puny untreated children went far deeper than mere speeches to emphasize the need of increasing facilities for this treatment.

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